CLAIMS

1.　A method for transmitting control information on a control channel associated with a traffic channel, comprising the steps of:

a) determining the traffic channel to be either a full- or half rate channel or a quarter
5　rate channel; and

b1) as a response to determining the traffic channel to be a full- or half rate channel at step a), transforming a control information block of fixed size into a first number of control information bursts and transmitting all these control information bursts, or alternatively

10　b2) as a response to determining the traffic channel to be a quarter rate channel at step a),

- transforming a control information block of said fixed size into a second number of control information bursts, where said second number is smaller than the first number,

15　- transmitting said second number of control information bursts,

- checking, whether a retransmission is requested concerning said second number of transmitted control information bursts, and

- if a retransmission is requested concerning said second transmitted control information bursts, transmitting another number of control information bursts

20　describing the contents of the control information block which was transformed into said second number of transmitted control information bursts.

2.　A method according to claim 1, wherein step b1) comprises the step of transforming a control information block of fixed size into four control information

25　bursts and step b2) comprises the step of transforming a control information block of said fixed size into two control information bursts.

3.　A method according to claim 2, wherein step b2) comprises the step of

- if a retransmission is requested concerning said second transmitted control

30　information bursts, transmitting another two control information bursts describing the contents of the control information block which was transformed into said two transmitted control information bursts.

4.　A method for receiving control information on a control channel associated

35　with a traffic channel, comprising the steps of:

a) determining the traffic channel to be either a full- or half rate channel or a quarter rate channel; and

b1) as a response to determining the traffic channel to be a full- or half rate channel at step a), buffering a first number of received control information bursts and transforming them into a control information block of fixed size, or alternatively

b2) as a response to determining the traffic channel to be a quarter rate channel at

5   step a),

- buffering a second number of received control information bursts, where said second number is smaller than the first number,

- attempting the transformation of said second number of control information bursts into a control information block of fixed size,

10   - checking, whether the attempted transformation of said second number of control information bursts into a control information block of fixed size was successful, and

- if the attempted transformation of said second number of control information bursts into a control information block of fixed size was not successful, requesting for a retransmission concerning said second number of transmitted control

15   information bursts and attempting the transformation of said second number of control information bursts together with a retransmission concerning them into a control information block of fixed size.

5.   A method according to claim 4, wherein step b1) comprises the step of

20   buffering four received control information bursts and step b2) comprises the steps of buffering two received control information bursts and attempting the transformation of said two received control information bursts into a control information block of fixed size.

25   6.   A method according to claim 5, wherein step b2) comprises the step of

- if the attempted transformation of said two received control information bursts into a control information block of fixed size was not successful, requesting for a retransmission of another two control information bursts and attempting the transformation of all received four control information bursts into a control

30   information block of fixed size.